

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Colin John Francis Philip Jones, John Lamont-Black, Stephanie Glendinning and Andrew Fourie			
Serial No.: 10/583,306		Art Unit:	1797
Confirmation No.:	4474	Examiner: Cameron J. Allen	
Filed:	April 24, 2007		
For:	WASTE AND TAILINGS DEWATERING TREATMENT SYSTEM METHOD		

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF AN INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

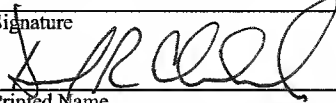
Applicants thank Examiner Cameron J. Allen and Supervisory Patent Examiner Walter Griffin for extending to the undersigned attorney the courtesy of an in-person interview on September 23, 2009. In addition to the substance of the interview recorded in the September 23, 2009 Interview Summary Form PTOL-413, possible amendments to claims 1 and 3-6 as shown below were also discussed:

1. (currently amended): An apparatus for reducing the liquid content of a material comprising a particulate/liquid dispersion or suspension, the apparatus comprising a receiving zone to contain the material, at least one pair of electrodes spaced apart within the receiving zone, having a potential difference thereacross and hence across the material in use to drive electro-kinetic dewatering, and a drain to enable removal of water, wherein at least one of the electrodes comprises a textile or other synthetic material at least in part associated with a ~~conductor, said conductor comprising a plurality~~ an array of elongate electrically conducting elements in, threaded through, woven or knitted into the textile or other synthetic material such that the electrode constitutes where so associated a primarily polymeric filtration structure incorporating the array.

3. (currently amended): An apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein the second at least one electrode is a conducting electrokinetic textile or other synthetic material.
4. (currently amended): An apparatus in accordance with claim 3 wherein the drain is formed as an integral structure with the conducting electrokinetic textile or other synthetic material ~~electrode~~.
5. (currently amended): An apparatus in accordance with claim 4 wherein the receiving zone is at least partly defined by a filtration membrane permeable to the liquid but impermeable to at least some ~~and more preferably substantially all of the~~ particulate solids contained within the material, which filtration membrane comprises ~~a textile or other synthetic material at least in part associated with a conductor so as to constitute where so associated the said~~ the conducting electrokinetic textile or other synthetic ~~electrode~~ material.
6. (currently amended): An apparatus in accordance with claim 5 wherein the ~~filter~~ filtration membrane is a porous sheet-like material ~~having a primarily polymeric base structure~~ and the array of conducting elements includes lateral current carriers and transverse current distributors.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
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Signature

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